

SENATE BILL 403

By Beavers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to religious liberty involving student
organizations at postsecondary educational
institutions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-118, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (a) and designating the existing language of the section accordingly:

(a) The policies established pursuant to subsection (b) shall only apply to those postsecondary educational institutions that:

(1) Do not discriminate against or deny recognition to a student organization, or deny to a student organization access to programs or facilities otherwise available to any other student organization on the basis of:

(A) The religious content of the organization's speech; or

(B) The organization's exercise of its rights pursuant to subdivision (a)(2); and

(2) Do not prohibit a religious student organization from determining that the organization's religious mission requires that only persons professing the faith of the group and comporting themselves in conformity with it qualify to serve as members in good standing or leaders.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.